

On August 19th Mrs. S. and myself returned to Salt Lake, and Monday the 21st visited Red Butte Cañon for the last time. *Satyrus ariane* was abundant, but all old and mostly broken specimens. A few *Pamphila agricola*, two *Thecla melinus*, and quite a number of *Thecla crysalus* were taken. Two *Catocala* were seen, the only specimens noted during our trip. Several *Syneda* were seen, but of the genus *Catocala* both Park City and Salt Lake regions seemed to be barren. On the mountains above Park City *Syneda adumbrata* was abundant.

Another, to me, unaccountable fact was, that nothing would come to sugar. A preparation which always proves successful here was tried at Park City, but nothing—not one specimen, so far as I could determine, came even to sample the mixture. Another preparation, suggested by Mr. B. Neumoegen, was tried night after night with the same results. I can only account for this in one of two ways: either the nights were too cold, or the altitude too great. What few Noctuids I took came to the light from my lamp placed in an open window, or were taken during the daytime on shrubs and grasses.

Before closing this first article I wish to repeat and emphasize two suggestions which I had from Dr. Skinner just after I began collecting in Utah: First, "Take every specimen you see;" second, "Whenever possible take specimens of the sexes in coitu placing them in same paper."

I believe that no one can positively identify species on the wing. In my own experience some of my best captures were made when I supposed I was taking old acquaintances. A beautiful female *Argynnis leto* was supposed to be a faded *Vanessa antiopa* until Mrs. S. assured me it was not, and I captured it by way of proof.

ON THE GENUS ERAX.

By S. W. WILLISTON.

Next to *Asilus*, in its wide sense, there is no genus of the Asilidæ which presents more difficulties to the student than does *Erax*. Osten Sacken well expresses these difficulties in his work on the Central American Diptera in the "Biologia." There are quite a number of species described by the older authors which will probably never be determined with certainty until their types are examined, if they ever are, for doubtless some of the

types are no longer in existence. Furthermore, the genus is a large one; it has already become unwieldy, and it requires division, for convenience sake, if nothing else. Hitherto, however, there have been no characters discovered which will satisfactorily serve this purpose. In my attempt at the elucidation of our own species, in the "Transactions" Amer. Ent. Soc. xii, p. 64, I was tempted to separate three by an anomalous peculiarity in the neururation, but forbore to do so for reasons which seemed to be important. Mr. Coquillett has, however, recently used this character to define his genus *Efferia*,* in which he has located two of these species and described three new ones. But these new species themselves add still another objection to the acceptance of his genus. It makes comparatively little difference how far we divide genera, provided natural relationships are not disturbed. In the present case we have characters which show decided relationships ignored, and species brought together which have their nearest allies in different groups of *Erax*, as it now remains with Mr. Coquillett's species removed. In *E. anomalus*, one of the species included in *Efferia*, a striking character is the pilosity of the abdomen, which is, as I described it, "parted down the middle and combed outwards," a character found only in *candida* among the other species of *Efferia*, but which does occur in various other species of *Erax*, *E. stamineus* for instance. Again, in certain species of *Erax*, *E. jubatus* for example, we find an equally remarkable development of the hair of the mesonotum, which is developed "mane-like" along the middle. This character occurs in only one of the six species with three submarginal cells, *E. rava* Coq. Furthermore, should the genus be acceptable, it would be better to use the name *Eichoichemus*, proposed for it by Bigot, with *Erax fluvianalis* Macquart (Dipt. Exot. Suppl. iii, p. 186, pl. ii, fig. 12a, not 13) as its type.

A Scotchman who wanted to sell some bees inserted the following advertisement in the local paper: "Extensive sale of live stock, comprising no less than 140,000 head, with an unlimited right of pasturage."—*New York Tribune*.

* "Canadian Entomologist," xxv, p. 175.